by Shell (or one of its affiliates) and the main activity of the JVC will be related to the blending and marketing of Shell-branded lubricants with technology to be provided by Shell.

(ii) The Authorised and Paid-up Capital of the proposed JVC will be Rs. 130 crores and Rs. 32.50 crores respectively. Shell will subscribe to their portion of equity in foreign exchange.

(iii) Shell, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Shell International Petroleum Company, will provide to the JVC the latest technology on blending, formulation, handling and distribution of lubricants; design, construction and operation of lubricants blending plants; training of employees; relevant technical services in support of lubricants business; latest developments on R & D of lubricants and their formulations, etc.

(iv) Initially, the JVC will blend its range of Shell-branded lubricants at BPC's blending plant at Wadibunder, Bombay, on payment of commercially negotiated fee to BPC. This arrangement will continue till such time that the JVC is able to put up its own blending plant(s).

(v) BPC will provide its network of depots and retail outlets for storage, distribution and sale of the JVC products, for which the JVC will pay suitable compensation to BPC.

(b) The initial blending of Shell-branded lubricants will be carried out at BPC's blending plant at Wadibunder, Bombay. It is anticipated that the JVC will have its first blending plant by 1996.

(c) BPC's existing blending plant would continue to blend BPC's range of automotive and industrial lubricants.

Recruitment of Cooks and Waiters during Haj Pilgrimages

*726. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shipping Corporation is engaging cooks and waiters on "Nicobar" during the Haj pilgrimages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such employees are recruited only on the recommendations from particular agents;

(c) whether it is a fact that these casual employees are not subjected to routine medical examination such as X-ray and pathology tests; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The employees recruited for this purpose are subjected to medical examination, like any other seamen, by the medical department of Shipping Corporation of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploration for Crude Oil on the North Bank of River Brahmaputra by Oil India Limited

*727. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited has drawn up a massive plan to commence exploratory drilling on the north bank of river Brahmaputra and a new discovery of crude oil was made in Upper Assam where production has already commenced; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantum of crude oil expected to be

produced in that area during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) OIL has planned to drill 5 wells in the North Bank of river Brahmaputra in Lakhimpur area in the 8th plan.

Hydrocarbon discoveries have been made at Dikom, Kathaloni, North Hapjan and Makum in Upper Assam by OIL during the last three years. Crude oil production from these areas has already commenced.

(b) The quantum of production expected from these new areas in the South Bank in Upper Assam is 0.65 MMT in 1995-96 and 0.84 MMT in 1996-97. No hydrocarbon reserves have been established in the North Bank of Brahmaputra river.

Manning of unmanned level crossings

*728. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to man some of the unmanned level crossings in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, what is the number of such crossings to be manned and their details zone-wise; and

(c) how many unmanned level crossings will be there after the completion of the above work and by when the same will also be manned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) About 500 busy and vulnerable unmanned level crossings are being manned during the current financial year. Zone-wise break up is given below:—

Railway	No. of level crossings
Central	67
Eastern	7
Northern	104
North Eastern	34
Northeast Frontier	2
Southern	83
South Eastern	22
Western	181
Total	500

(c) About 22560 Nos. To man the balance level crossings, which costs on an average about Rs. 5.00 lakh per level crossing, funds to the tune of Rs. 1133.00 crores are needed, besides, recurring expenditure of Rs. 136 crores (@ Rs. 60,000 per level crossing).

Destruction of Trees Planned on Railway Land

*729. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all matured trees planted under rural forestry scheme by Railways on both the sides of railway line from Bakhtiarpur to Biharsharif have been destroyed totally by the villagers of nearby villages; and

(b) if so, the detials thereof and steps taken by Railways to stop such offence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However about 1800 trees aged between 10-12 years have been out and stolen. This being a law and order problem, complaint has been lodged with the Police authorities. Further action rests with the State Government. Railways have also intensified vigilance.